

CHAPTER 7

THE SEAL ON THE LONG AND  
DISTINGUISHED HISTORY OF THE  
CLASSICAL LITERATURE CLUB

Except... I  
sort of messed  
up and am  
stuck in the  
Japanese  
consulate, so I  
haven't  
actually seen  
the city yet.

Getting  
straight  
to the  
interesting  
stuff: I'm in  
Istanbul  
right now.

Mr.  
Houtarou  
Oreki.

This trip is  
fun.

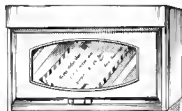
I'm sure that ten  
years from now, I  
won't regret  
these days.

Anyway, I'm  
writing to  
you about  
something  
I've been  
wondering  
about a little.

But if  
someone else  
has joined,  
that's great!  
Boys build  
character  
if they're  
around other  
people, after  
all.

How's the Classics  
Club? Have you  
gotten more  
members? Even if  
you're by  
yourself, you  
needn't get  
discouraged. Boys  
get tougher if  
they endure  
loneliness,  
after all.

THANK





Are you  
interested in  
making an  
anthology?

The Classics Club  
always used to  
put out an  
anthology  
during the  
Cultural Festival,  
so I was wonder-  
ing if that is still  
the case.

I was thinking  
that maybe  
you don't know  
how to make  
one.

Especially  
since  
the old  
Classics Club  
anthology  
volumes aren't  
in the school  
library.

#### CHAPTER 7

THE SEAL ON THE LONG AND  
DISTINGUISHED HISTORY OF THE  
CLASSICAL LITERATURE CLUB



ALL THINGS CONSIDERED,

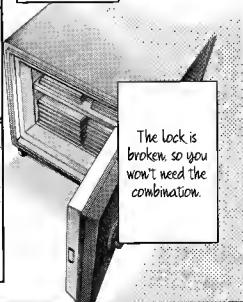
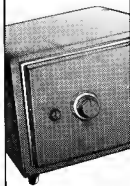
I'll give you a call when I get to Kosovo.

You should look in the club room.



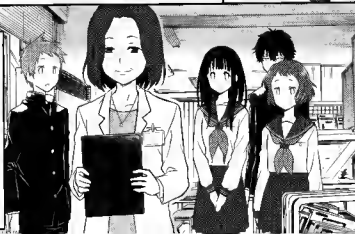
Sincerely,  
Tomoe Oreki

There's an unused chemical safe in there, and the back volumes are in it.



The lock is broken, so you won't need the combination.

WE TRIED TO FIND THE BACK ISSUES OF THE ANTHOLOGY, BUT COULDN'T.



SHE'S RIGHT:

SO AS IT TURNS  
OUT, BY TREATING  
RESULTS AS OUR  
PURPOSE, OUR  
GOAL CAN BE  
ACCOMPLISHED BY  
GETTING RESULTS.

AS USUAL,  
A LETTER  
FROM  
TOMOE  
OREKI DIS-  
RUPTS MY  
PEACEFUL  
LIFE...

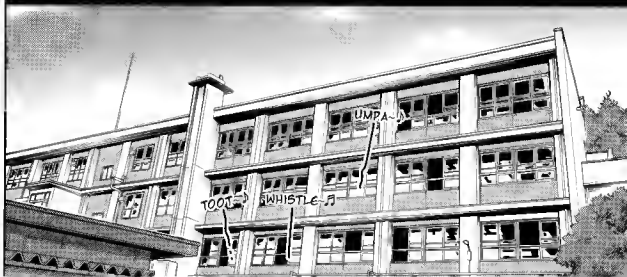
WE'LL PUT  
OUT AN  
ANTHOLOGY  
AT THE  
CULTURAL  
FESTIVAL IN  
OCTOBER.

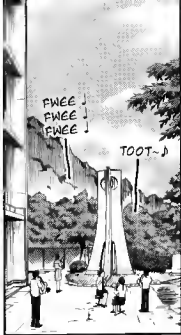
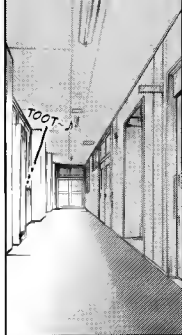
AS THE  
PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
CLASSICS  
CLUB,  
CHITANDA'S  
PROBLEM  
IS THE  
ANTHOLOGY.

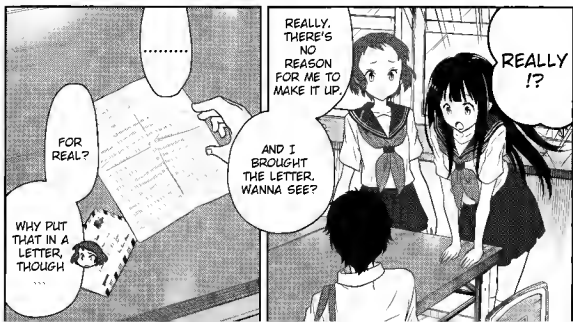
I LISTENED TO  
CHITANDA'S  
PERSONAL  
PROBLEM THE  
OTHER DAY,  
BUT...

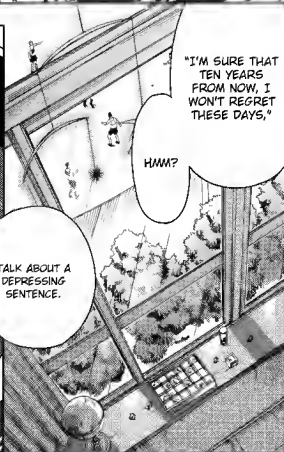
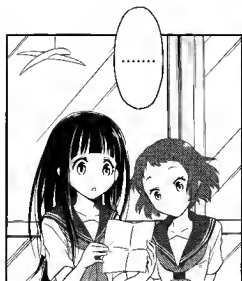
I WANT  
YOU TO HELP  
ME REMEMBER  
WHAT I HEARD  
FROM MY UNCLE!

IF WHAT MY SISTER SAYS IS TRUE,  
WE CAN GET HOLD OF THE ANTHOLOGIES.











SO...  
THEN  
WHERE  
ARE THE  
ANTHOLOGIES?



HUH...

NOPE.

HMM...  
THERE  
DOESN'T  
SEEM TO BE  
ONE IN THIS  
ROOM, DOES  
THERE?



THE  
CLUB  
ROOM  
MUST'VE  
CHANGED  
SINCE  
THEN.

MY SISTER  
GRADUATED  
FROM HERE  
TWO YEARS  
AGO;

CHITANDA,

ALL THAT'S  
WRITTEN IN  
THE LETTER IS "THE  
CHEMICAL SAFE  
IN THE CLUB  
ROOM."



IT WAS  
JUST FOR  
EFFICIENCY'S  
SAKE.

WELL  
LOOK  
WHO'S  
UN-  
USUALLY  
PRE-  
PARED.



PRETTY  
GUNG-  
HO,  
AREN'T  
YOU?



I ASKED THE  
ADVISER, AND  
APPARENTLY IT  
WAS THE  
BIOLOGY PREP  
ROOM.

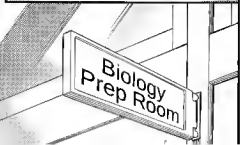
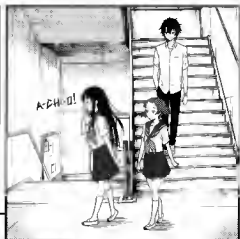


OF  
COURSE...  
SO THAT'S  
WHY.

WELL  
THEN,  
OREKI,

DO YOU  
KNOW  
WHICH  
ROOM  
THE CLUB  
USED  
TWO  
YEARS  
AGO?







HEEEY,  
IS THERE  
ANYONE IN  
THERE?

...SHE'S  
SCOLDING  
ME...

TO CALL  
THEM AN  
IDIOT...  
OREKI-SAN,  
THAT'S  
GOING TOO  
FAR.

MY BAD—  
I HAD IT  
LOCKED.

DID YOU GUYS  
WANT TO JOIN  
MY WALL  
NEWSPAPER  
CLUB?

CLICK

THANK

Rattle



THIS IS THE CLUB ROOM FOR THE WALL NEWSPAPER CLUB?

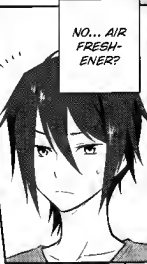


What?

TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH...



DID YOU NEED SOMETHING?



NO... AIR FRESHENER?



YOU ARE TOUGAITO-SENPAI FROM THE THIRD-YEAR CLASS E, YES?

WE ARE THE CLASSICAL LITERATURE CLUB, AND I'M THE PRESIDENT, ERU CHITANDA.



YUP.

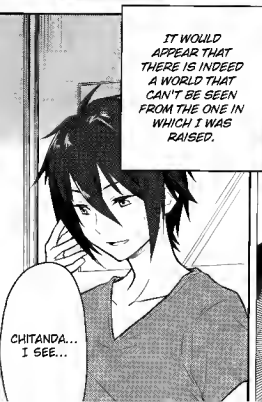
SO YOU GUYS AREN'T LOOKING TO JOIN?

CLOSE



PER-FUME?

HUH? THIS SMELL...

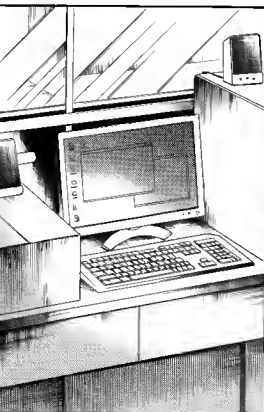


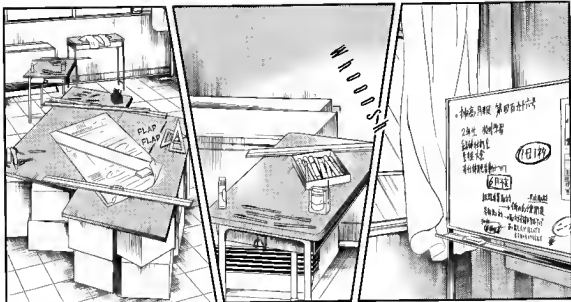












NOW THAT I  
THINK ABOUT IT,  
IF CHITANDA'S  
UNCLE WAS IN  
THE CLASSICS  
CLUB 45  
YEARS AGO,

THE  
CLASSICS  
CLUB'S  
HISTORY  
GOES BACK  
AT LEAST  
45 YEARS.

THE SOOTH  
ISSUE,  
HUH... I  
GUESS IT'S  
BEEN  
PUBLISHED  
CONTINU-  
OUSLY FOR  
YEARS.

KAMI HIGH  
HAS THREE  
PAPERS, BUT  
OURS HAS  
BEEN AROUND  
THE LONGEST.

AND IT'S  
GOT A  
LONG  
HISTORY:  
IT'S  
NEARING  
ITS  
SOOTH  
ISSUE.

IT'S  
CALLED  
THE  
"KAMI  
HIGH  
MONTHLY,"

THE  
YEARS  
WOULDN'T  
ADD UP TO  
THE LENGTH  
OF THE  
CLASSICS  
CLUB'S  
HISTORY.

EVEN IF I  
WERE TO  
LIVE MY  
WHOLE  
LIFESPAN  
AGAIN,

SO THEY  
AREN'T  
HERE  
AFTER  
ALL...

WHAT  
NOW?

NOT THAT  
THERE'S  
ANYTHING  
USEFUL  
ABOUT  
THAT  
INSIGHT.

YEAH...  
THEY  
DON'T  
SEEM TO  
BE IN  
HERE.

SENPAI,

WHEN THE CLUB ROOMS  
WERE  
SWITCHED  
AROUND,  
WAS ANY  
EQUIPMENT  
REMOVED?

YEAH...

CARD  
BOARD  
BOXES?

NOW  
THAT  
YOU  
MENTION  
IT...

A LOT OF  
CARDBOARD  
BOXES  
WERE  
MOVED.

I SEE...

BUT...

I HAVE A  
FEELING  
THAT I KNOW  
WHERE THE  
ANTHOLOGIES  
ARE.

IN  
THAT  
CASE,  
I SEE  
HOW  
IT IS.

LET'S BAIT  
HIM A BIT.

SENPAI

IF IT'S NOT A  
PROBLEM, I'D  
LIKE TO HAVE  
OUR ADVISER,  
MR. OOIDE, HELP  
US MAKE A  
THOROUGH  
SEARCH.

SINCE THERE'S  
SO MUCH STUFF  
IN THIS ROOM,  
IT SEEMS IT'LL  
TAKE A WHILE  
TO FIND WHAT  
WE'RE LOOKING  
FOR.

THE  
PROBLEM IS  
HOW TO  
ACTUALLY  
GET THEM...

IS THAT  
OKAY?

NO WAY!

I ASKED YOU  
NOT TO MAKE  
A MESS OF  
THINGS,  
DIDN'T I?



TWITCH

PLEASE,  
WE'D  
APPRECIATE  
IT.

WE'LL TAKE  
RESPONSIBILITY  
FOR PUTTING  
EVERYTHING  
BACK AS IT  
WAS.



**NO  
WAY!**

**I  
SAID**

I HAVE TO  
COME UP WITH  
SOME IDEAS  
BEFORE THE  
EDITORIAL  
MEETING  
TOMORROW...

**FIRST  
OF ALL,  
I'M  
BUSY!**



**YOUR  
ANTHOLOGIES  
AREN'T  
HERE!**

MY  
APOLOGIES,  
TOUGAITO-  
SENPAI!  
IT'S  
QUITE  
FINE, IF  
THEY'RE  
NOT  
HERE...

**A THOROUGH  
SEARCH!?  
HOW DARE  
YOU! AFTER  
BARGING IN  
JUST WHEN I  
FINALLY HAD  
SOME IDEAS!**

**NOW  
YOU  
KNOW,  
SO GET  
OUT!**

**BINGO.**







...FINE.

THANKS A LOT.

IF I FIND THEM, I'LL DO THAT.

OREKI-SAN, WHAT WAS THAT A—  
**CHOO!**

W-WAIT A SEC, OREKI...

WE'LL TALK LATER.

LET'S GO, CHITANDA, IBARA.

UH...

THE ONLY  
NAME I  
DIDN'T GET  
WAS YOURS.

HEY,  
FRESHMAN.

...OREKI  
HOUTAROU.

I DO FEEL  
BAD ABOUT  
THIS, BY THE  
WAY...

WHAT  
WAS  
THAT?  
EXPLAIN  
WHAT  
HAPPENED  
BACK  
THERE.

TO  
SAVE  
EN-  
ERGY.

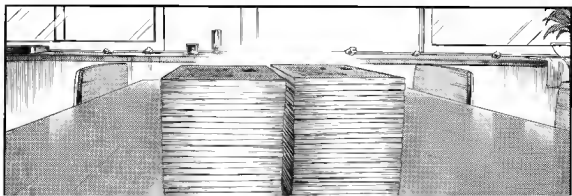
NOPE,

IT'D BE  
BETTER TO  
WAIT A  
LITTLE  
LONGER.

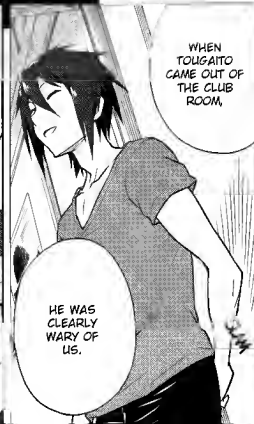
SO, OREKI,

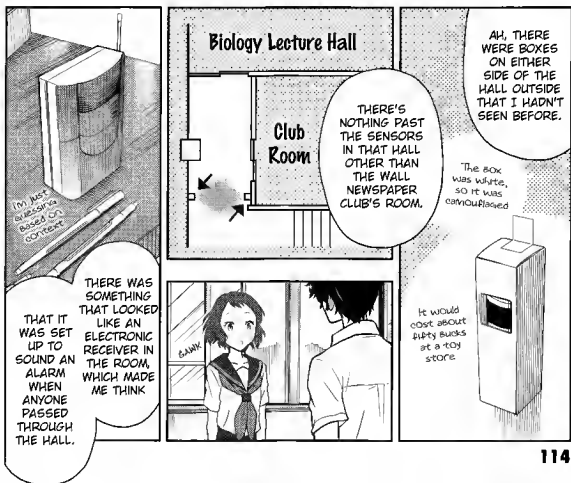
WHY ARE  
WE WAITING  
AROUND  
HERE?















...TO GET RID OF  
A SMELL?



WHY,  
IBARA?

OH, RIGHT:  
SO WHY DID  
HE SET UP AN  
INFRARED  
SENSOR...



WHERE  
WAS I?

...AND WHY WAS  
HE FORCIBLY  
VENTILATING THE  
CLUB ROOM,  
WHILE GUARDING  
IT AGAINST  
PEOPLE WHO  
CAME CLOSE?



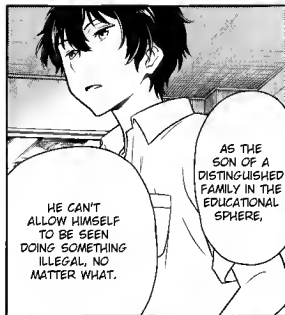
THAT'S A  
REASONABLE  
ASSUMPTION.

YES.



SO, WHAT  
SMELL WOULD  
HE GO SO FAR  
TO HIDE?

AND IF YOU  
THINK ABOUT IT,  
YOU'LL REALIZE  
HE ALSO USED  
AN ODOR-  
ELIMINATING  
SPRAY.



HE CAN'T  
ALLOW HIMSELF  
TO BE SEEN  
DOING SOMETHING  
ILLEGAL, NO  
MATTER WHAT.

AS THE  
SON OF A  
DISTINGUISHED  
FAMILY IN THE  
EDUCATIONAL  
SPHERE,



MAYBE  
CIGARETTE  
SMOKE...



I SEE...  
HE MUST BE  
UNDER A LOT  
OF PRESSURE.

THESE  
DAYS, DOCTORS,  
EDUCATORS, AND  
POLICE CAN'T SO  
MUCH AS YAWN  
WITHOUT BEARING  
SCRUTINY.

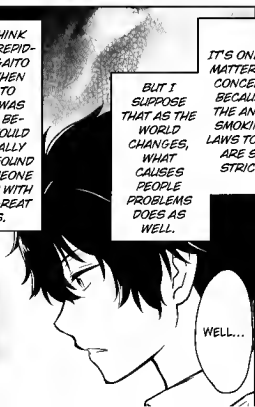


I CAN'T  
UNDERSTAND  
WANTING TO  
SMOKE AT  
SCHOOL  
ENOUGH TO  
GO THAT FAR.

BUT  
YOU GET  
IT NOW,  
RIGHT?

COME TO THINK  
OF IT, THE TREPID-  
ATION TOUNGAITO  
SHOWED WHEN  
TALKING TO  
CHITANDA WAS  
PROBABLY BE-  
CAUSE IT WOULD  
BE ESPECIALLY  
BAD TO BE FOUND  
OUT BY SOMEONE  
CONNECTED WITH  
THE FOUR GREAT  
HOUSES.

IF CHITANDA  
DIDN'T HAVE A  
COLD, SHE'D  
HAVE FIGURED  
IT OUT WITH  
JUST ONE SNIFF.



IT'S ONLY A  
MATTER OF  
CONCERN  
BECAUSE  
THE ANTI-  
SMOKING  
LAWS TODAY  
ARE SO  
STRICT.

BUT I  
SUPPOSE  
THAT AS THE  
WORLD  
CHANGES,  
WHAT  
CAUSES  
PEOPLE  
PROBLEMS  
DOES AS  
WELL.

WELL...

I-I'M  
NOT  
TEASING  
YOU!

O...  
re...  
ki...

IN THE  
CHEMICAL  
SAFE, OF  
COURSE.

BUT  
WHERE  
WERE  
THE  
ANTHO-  
LOGIES  
TO BEGIN  
WITH?

I GET THAT  
YOU SHADILY  
USED HIS  
SMOKING HABIT  
TO THREATEN  
SENPAI INTO  
BRINGING  
US THE  
ANTHOLOGIES.

BUT, WE  
DIDN'T SEE  
THE SAFE...  
BECAUSE IT  
WAS HIDDEN.

TOUGAITO  
SAID THAT  
WHEN THEY  
MOVED ROOMS,  
A LOT OF  
CARDBOARD  
BOXES WERE  
CARRIED OUT.

SO ASK  
YOURSELF  
WHY HE  
WOULD  
HAVE  
HIDDEN IT.

MEANING THAT  
THE CHEMICAL  
SAFE WASN'T  
REMOVED.

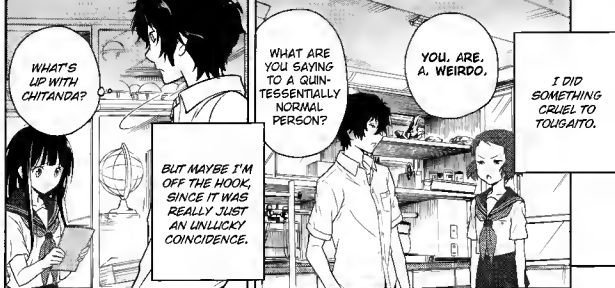
SO HE  
ENDED UP  
HIDING THE  
ANTHOLOGIES  
FROM US,  
TOO.

IT  
LIKELY HAD  
SOMETHING  
TO DO  
WITH  
SMOKING.

HIS  
CIGARETTES  
AND  
LIGHTER  
WERE  
PROBABLY  
HIDDEN  
INSIDE.

BUT IT  
PROBABLY  
WAS SOME-  
WHERE UNDER  
THE MAKE-  
SHIFT TABLE  
IN THE MIDDLE  
OF THE ROOM.

IT DOESN'T  
REALLY  
MATTER  
WHERE THE  
SAFE WAS  
PRECISELY,



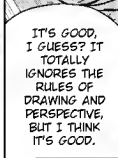
PLEASE...  
LOOK AT  
THIS.



HYOUKA...

THE NAME OF THE  
ANTHOLOGY IS  
"ICE CREAM"?











## Preface

It's once again that time of year, and the Cultural Festival has arrived.

It will soon have already been a year since Sekitani-senpai left.

In that year, senpai has turned from a hero into a legend.

The Cultural Festival will be held for a grand total of 5 days again this year. But I, in my little corner of the school, think of the legend. I wonder: in ten years, will someone remember the quiet warrior, the gentle hero? On the final day, will this "Hyōuka" that senpai named still remain?

The struggle, the sacrifice, and even that smile of senpai's: all are being washed away to some remote place across time. No, it's better that way. It shouldn't be remembered. Because it absolutely was not a heroic tale.

All of this will lose its subjectivity, and transcend historical perspectives to become a classic.

Someday, even those of us living here and now will become some future reader's "classics."

October 13th, 1968      Kōriyama Yōko



THE ANSWER  
MY UNCLE  
GAVE ME ALSO  
CONCERNED  
THE CLASSICAL  
LITERATURE  
CLUB.

THE PREVIOUS  
YEAR WOULD  
HAVE BEEN 45  
YEARS AGO.


IN WHICH  
CASE, THE  
CLASSICAL  
LITERATURE  
CLUB'S  
SEKITANI-  
SENPAI MUST  
HAVE BEEN  
MY UNCLE.



BUT, I CAN'T  
REMEMBER...

NOW  
YOU  
KNOW.

ISN'T  
THAT A  
GOOD  
THING?




WHAT WAS IT  
THAT HAPPENED  
TO MY UNCLE  
45 YEARS AGO?

CHITANDA  
...

WHAT WAS  
IT THAT MY  
UNCLE SAID TO  
ME THAT DAY?

EVEN THOUGH  
I'M SO CLOSE.

SO CLOSE!



IF WE  
INVESTIGATE,  
IT'S POSSIBLE  
THAT IT WON'T  
TURN OUT WELL.

AREN'T THERE  
SOME TRUTHS  
THAT ARE  
BETTER OFF  
FORGOTTEN?



BUT...

"IT  
SHOULDN'T BE  
REMEMBERED,"  
IS WRITTEN IN  
THERE.



WE'LL JUST  
HAVE TO LOOK  
INTO IT.



EXCESSIVELY  
KIND, DON'T  
YOU THINK?



CHITANDA  
THAT'S...

EVEN IF  
IT'S BEEN  
46 YEARS?



AM I WRONG?



YOU'RE  
WRONG.

IT'S WRITTEN  
RIGHT THERE:



"All of this  
will lose its  
subjectivity,

"and  
transcend  
historical  
perspectives to  
become a  
classic."



THE  
STATUTE OF  
LIMITATIONS  
HAS EXPIRED.





WE REALLY  
JUST HAVE  
TO CHECK  
OUT THE  
FIRST  
ISSUE...

BUT SINCE  
VOLUME 2  
SAYS "LAST  
YEAR,"

AND, I  
MENTIONED  
INVESTIGATING,

HUH?



THAT'S  
STRANGE  
...

THE FIRST  
ISSUE IS  
THE ONLY  
ONE THAT'S  
NOT HERE.

THE END

# Roselia Scanslations

## 氷菓 HYOUKA

Raws: Tristanthorn  
Translator: FushigiNoKuniNo  
Proofreader: Bashzestampeedo  
Cleaner: Dmacjason  
Redrawer: Bashzestampeedo & Dmacjason  
Typesetter: Bashzestampeedo  
QCer: Bashzestampeedo & Dmacjason

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